



OFFICIAL REPORT

OF THE

MIDSUMMER MEETING

OF CHIEF PLEAS

OF THE

ISLAND OF SARK

HANSARD

Assembly Room, Sark, Wednesday, 8th July 2015

*All published Official Reports can be found on the
official Island of Sark Chief Pleas website www.gov.sark.gg*

Volume 1, No. 4

Present:

Seigneur

J M Beaumont Esq OBE

President of Chief Pleas

Lt Col. R J Guille MBE

Deputy Prévôt

Mrs J Godwin

Greffier

Mr T J Hamon

Treasurer

Mrs W Kiernan FCA

Constable

Mr G Williams

Vingtenier

Mr P S La Trobe-Bateman

His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor

Air Marshal Peter Walker, CB, CBE

Conseillers:

Sandra Williams
Hazel Fry
Karen Adams
Richard Dewe
Elizabeth Dewe
Antony Dunks
Paul Williams
Rosanne Byrne
Christine Audrain
Robert Cottle
Alan Blythe
Matthew Joyner
Diane Baker
Edric Baker

Paul Burgess
Peter Byrne
Elsie Courtney
Colin Golds
Charles Maitland
Nicholas Maloney
Elizabeth Norwich
Roger Norwich
Helen Plummer
William Raymond
Arthur Rolfe
Stephen Taylor
Anthony Ventress

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Midsummer Meeting of Chief Pleas

Chief Pleas met at 10.00 a.m.

[THE PRESIDENT *in the Chair*]

PRAYER

The Greffier

ROLL CALL

The Greffier

The Greffier: There are 27 Conseillers, the Seigneur and the President of Chief Pleas present.

5

The President: I have received apologies from Conseiller Nightingale, who is housebound at the moment.

Welcome to HE Lieutenant Governor

The President: I would like to welcome His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor to this our Summer Meeting.

Resignations

10 **The President:** I would inform Members that Conseiller Sandra Williams tendered her resignation from the Development Control Committee with effect from 12th May, having served on the Committee since 2005. This will be dealt with under Item 7.

Conseiller Sandra Williams has also resigned as the Chairman of the Harbours and Pilotage Committee, having been in the chair since January, but remains a member.

15 Conseiller Elizabeth Dewe has tendered her resignation from the Harbours and Pilotage Committee, to which she was elected in January of this year. She was also the Deputy Chairman and her vacancy could be filled under Item 11.

Amendment of the Reform Law – Statement by Conseiller Edric Baker

The President: Conseiller Edric Baker, you wish to make a Statement. Please.

20 **Conseiller Edric Baker:** Sir, at the Extraordinary Meeting of Chief Pleas, the Douzaine presented a report and the Proposition was approved. It was intended to amend section 43(1) of the Reform Law by Ordinance.

After discussions with the Crown Officers, the conclusion was that it would be necessary to amend that section by a Projet de Loi instead, so that will take a bit longer.

25 Thank you, sir.

The President: Thank you.

**Normandy Summit –
Statement by Conseiller Maitland**

The President: A Statement by Conseiller Maitland, please.

30 **Conseiller Maitland:** I was invited to represent Sark at the Normandy Summit on 5th June. This followed on from the meeting in January where the Co-operation Agreement was signed by representatives of the départements of La Manche and Lower Normandy and the four Channel Islands. Alderney and Sark are associate members. The Summit was held at the beautiful Mont Saint-Michel.

35 The attendees were split into four groups and I attended the strategy meeting. One of the main points covered was emergency planning regarding the Flamanville nuclear power station on the Normandy coast. A memorandum of understanding is to be signed shortly – it could even be happening today – for the need for the Channel Islands to be immediately informed of any incident, no matter how small, at the facility so that the Channel Island governments are fully
40 aware of all that is taking place there. Sark should be informed and have sight of the agreement in due course, and if it transpires I will bring it to Chief Pleas at Michaelmas. Next year there will also be exercises at the facility and emergency services and politicians and others from the Channel Islands will be invited to observe them. Other points covered were marine energy, because Normandy is at the forefront of development in France; and our French hosts were very
45 excited by the fact that the Tour de France starts at Mont Saint-Michel next year, which is obviously going to do a lot for their tourist industry. The other groups dealt with economy and environmental matters, education and sports and leisure.

Next year the summit will be held in Jersey and it might be a good opportunity for Sark to be represented on one of the other groups – for instance, discussing tourism. It was also a very
50 good opportunity to meet colleagues from the other jurisdictions once again.

I should also add that since Easter Chief Pleas the Committee has met with the Renewable Energy Team and GFSC senior executives to discuss future developments and legislation.

Thank you, sir.

55 **The President:** Thank you.

**Sark Shipping Company, recruitment of non-executive directors –
Statement by Conseiller Adams**

The President: A Statement by Conseiller Adams, please.

60 **Conseiller Adams:** I wish to inform Chief Pleas that the Shipping Committee, working closely with the directors and management of the Isle of Sark Shipping Company and with the invaluable support of our senior administrator, are currently embarking on the process of recruitment of more new non-executive directors for the company to work alongside the current Executive Director, Mr Colin Smith, and the current Non-Executive Director, Mrs Julie

Mann, both of whom are in full support of this addition, which will allow leadership at the top tier of the company to be enhanced through wider professional input.

65 A contract with appropriate terms and conditions will be drawn up in the near future. The positions will be advertised and the process for recruitment will be open and transparent. More information on this will follow soon.

The President: Thank you.

**EU Action Plan on Fair and Efficient Corporate Tax –
Statement by Conseiller Cottle**

70 **The President:** A Statement by Conseiller Cottle, please.

Conseiller Cottle: Thank you.

Members of Chief Pleas will be aware that Guernsey was recently placed on an annex to the EU Action Plan on Fair and Efficient Corporate Tax by the European Commission. This
75 misrepresents its standing at the forefront in the fight against tax evasion, fraud and abusive tax avoidance and its reputation as a co-operative jurisdiction in tax matters, acknowledged by the UK government and the OECD amongst others.

One of the reasons Guernsey has been included in this list is due to fact that one country, Poland, listed Sark but not Guernsey on a national blacklist. The EU Commission has incorrectly
80 treated Sark as a part of Guernsey for the administration of tax matters. The Chairman and the Deputy Chairman and the Treasurer from Finance & Resources Committee are working with Guernsey officials to attempt to correct the misunderstandings with support from the UK government and to protect the reputations of both Sark and Guernsey.

Thank you.

85

The President: Thank you.

***The Sark Newspaper –
Statement by Conseiller Roger Norwich***

The President: A Statement by Conseiller Roger Norwich, please.

90 **Conseiller Roger Norwich:** This Statement relates to an issue that has been raised by a number of Sark residents which, if unanswered, would impinge on my position as a Conseiller in Chief Pleas.

In Soviet Russia there were two major propaganda newspapers: one was called *Izvestia* ('The News'); the other was called *Pravda* ('The Truth'). It was long said that there was no news in 'The Truth' and no truth in 'The News'. In Sark we have only one propaganda publication,
95 ironically called *The Sark Newspaper*. It is a vehicle in which some say you will find no news nor the truth. What we do have is an odious publication which is designed to insult, bully and harass various members of the population, and in particular Conseillers, who arguably make the greatest contribution to the community, giving up their time freely to help make this community function.

100 The so-called editors are Mr Kevin Delaney and Mr John Donnelly. Every Friday, wanted or not, Messrs Delaney and Donnelly slide their grubby, uninvited organ through our letterboxes or online for all the world to see, one week harassing one group, one week another. The contents

of the so-called newspaper are ludicrous and juvenile. The contents do nothing other than pour shame on its authors and publishers. The distribution list is, however, impressive and designed to denigrate Sark in the wider world. Only the Pope's name is missing!

Why this publication exists and what its mysterious backers hope to ever achieve with it remains a mystery to most of us who have been abused and harassed by its content. What is chilling, however, is the fact that the Police and the Law Officers in Guernsey have failed over a very lengthy period to act to put a stop to the harassment of the inhabitants of Sark, 54 of whom made formal complaints of criminal harassment to the Bailiwick authorities as long ago as August 2014, but who, after 10 months, still await the courtesy of a reply. Thorough investigation is quite right and proper, but one might ask why there is such a delay and what or whom is behind that delay. Why do the inhabitants of Sark not have the same legal protection as others in the Bailiwick? The authorities in Guernsey have serious questions to answer.

Last week yet another round of abuse was slid through our doors. This time not only with the usual puerile taunts but, yet again, libel. On page 5 of this stinking organ one can read the following clear and unequivocal statement, with no room for doubt, no room for confusion. It reads, Mr President:

'It is common knowledge in Sark that Roger Norwich, as well as his wife and fellow member of its one... party parliament, Elizabeth Jane Norwich, are no strangers to the *'directorship business'* better known as the Sark Lark, eagerly participating in the very activity that got Guernsey onto the blacklist in the first place.'

Well, is that a fact? Is it really common knowledge? Mr President, fellow Conseillers, I can tell you there is not one scintilla, not one iota of truth in these foul allegations. Let me provide the facts.

Elizabeth Jane Norwich has never indulged in the so-called 'Sark Lark'. While she has been a director of companies in the United Kingdom in the past, she has not held one *single* directorship in *any* jurisdiction during the last five years or so, and those that ever were held were in the United Kingdom, never in Bermuda, nor in the Seychelles, nor in the British Virgin Islands, nor in the Caymans, nor even in Dubai. The accusation is untrue: yet another episode of harassment. It is a lie, and behind the lie there is always a liar.

I read I am a practitioner of the Sark Lark – extremely strange that I have never noticed that fact. Indeed, I am and have been on the board of a number of international companies – respectable taxpaying companies, companies on the main New York and Toronto stock exchanges, for example, where I currently or have previously actively participated in the development of successful enterprises. Unlike some, I have never held directorships in the Seychelles, nor in the British Virgin Islands, nor in Dubai, nor in the Caymans, nor in Bermuda. The accusations made in the so-called Sark 'newspaper' are untrue, they are lies: yet another episode of harassment. Behind the lies stand liars. I hold only directorships in companies in which I exert control, and if anyone wishes to know my directorships they need only apply to the Greffier.

As I have stated, I do not know, nor do I care, who really writes the toxic prose that purports to be a newspaper and that I now hold in my hand, but Mr Kevin Delaney and Mr John Donnelly are the two people who put their name to the bile that is printed, so if there is a lie – and there is a lie – it is their lie, and if it is their lie then they are liars. If they have information to the contrary they should present it to the President of Chief Pleas, in which case I will immediately resign as a Conseiller and turn myself in to the Police, as this is indeed a serious criminal allegation. However, I can assure you, Mr President and fellow Conseillers, that we will all be waiting an extremely long time. Their tale, just like those written by the Brothers Grimm, is a fairy-tale, a figment of fantasy, a lie, a libel as despicable as its authors.

Mr President, I trust my position is clear. (*Applause*)

**70th Anniversary of Liberation celebrations –
Statement by the Constable**

The President: A Statement now by the Constable on the 70th Anniversary of Liberation celebrations. Constable.

150

The Constable: We were very sorry that His Excellency the Lieutenant Government and Mrs Walker were not able to make the celebration. I really think you missed an excellent day.

There are too many people to thank by name, but I would like to thank my committee for all the time and work that they have put in to making the day the success that it was. (**A Member:** Hear, hear.)

155

I would also like to thank the general public for all their help on the day. We had to move a hundred chairs off the quay into the marquee. With their help it ran smoothly and quickly. Also, the people at the end of the day for helping with stacking chairs, folding down tables and loading the trailers so that the harbour was clear.

160

And another thing: despite some people trying to spend the money, we did come in under budget! (*Laughter*)

The President: I think that's a reference to me! (*Laughter*)
Seigneur.

165

The Seigneur: I thought the 70th Anniversary of Liberation day went exceptionally well. We were blessed with excellent weather and the organisation could not have been better, so I wish to thank the Constable's committee for their organisation of the whole event. The committee – I am going to name names – consisted of the Constable, Glynn Williams; the Vingtenier, Sam La Trobe-Bateman; Chris Elgie; Dave Cocksedge; Julia Dallen; Karen Le Mouton; Sandie Hunt; John Hunt; Karen Adams; and Reg Guille. Also, I thank Rosie Smith, who, while she was not on the committee, did a lot of work in designing and producing the brochure, (**A Member:** Hear, hear.) and all the others – too many to mention – who worked to make the day such a success. Thank you all.

170

**NatWest Island Games 2015 –
Statement by Conseiller Richard Dewe**

The President: A Statement by Conseiller Richard Dewe on the Island Games, please.

175

Conseiller Richard Dewe: Thank you, sir.

Twenty-four islands entered the Jersey 2015 NatWest Island Games. Sark was the smallest island with the smallest team, just eight competitors: two archers, Jane Norwich and Kevin Adams – unfortunately, Jane had to retire due to a foot injury just prior to the games but still managed to be our team physio; and six clay target shooters – Stefan Roberts, Nicholas Dewe, Glen Williams, Paul Brown, better known as Ringo, and Alexander and Jacob Magell.

180

By tradition, Stefan Roberts was our flag bearer and there was a big ovation when the Sark team entered the arena at the opening ceremony led by Stefan and the Sark flag.

185

Kevin Adams was our water carrier. Each island brings a flask of water from their island and this is mixed with a sample from the previous Games at the Water Ceremony and a sample of this blend is taken to the next host island.

Kevin Adams was knocked out in the second round of the men's recurve head-to-head knockout event and came 28th in the men's 720 recurve discipline.

190 Stefan Roberts and Nicholas Dewe took gold in the universal trap team discipline and Stefan also took bronze in the universal trap individual event.

Alex Williams, now shooting for Guernsey, as he has dually qualified, took team bronze with another from Guernsey.

195 Stefan Roberts and Nicholas Dewe took bronze in the automatic ball trap team discipline, and Nicholas Dewe also took silver in the automatic ball trap individual event.

Paul Brown, Alexander and Jacob Magell were placed ninth in the sport trap team discipline, and Paul Brown was placed ninth, with Jacob Magell 25th and Alexander Magell 28th in the sport trap individual event.

200 Glen Williams, Paul Brown and Alexander Magell were placed ninth in the English sporting team discipline, and Glen Williams was placed 20th, Paul Brown 25th and Alexander Magell 30th in the English sporting individual event.

Paul Brown and Glen Williams were placed 11th in the English skeet team discipline, and Paul Brown was placed 11th and Glen Williams 21st in the individual English skeet event.

205 The Sark team was visited by the Bailiffs of Guernsey and Jersey as well as the Dowager Dame of St Ouen. It was good to have their support.

The next NatWest Island Games will be held in Gotland in 2017.

210 The Sark team and the Sark Island Games Association would like to thank Chief Pleas for their financial support and believe that their efforts helped to promote Sark as a tourist destination. Our reception in Jersey seemed to support this notion and many people have said to us that they wish to visit Sark.

Thank you, sir. *(Applause)*

The President: Seigneur.

215 **The Seigneur:** I would also like to thank all those who took part in the Island Games and helped put the Island firmly on the map. In particular, I would like to congratulate the shooting team for their success in bringing home some medals. Thank you all, the whole team. *(Applause)*

Procedural – Electronic devices

220 **The President:** I would remind all present that mobile phones, cameras, recording devices and other electronic equipment are to be switched off now, other than those allowed to Chief Pleas Members in accordance with Rule 16 as resolved by Chief Pleas at the Easter Meeting.

Business of the Day

1. Easter Meeting, 15th April 2015 – Matters arising

Matters arising from the Easter Meeting held on 15th April 2015.

The President: Matters arising. Does anyone have any comments to make on the Easter Meeting? Before I ask anybody to speak, I would like to make a correction to the *Hansard* record of that meeting and I would ask you to please amend your copy to delete the number given for

225 the laid before Ordinance. It should be number V of 2015, and not VIII of 2015 as I announced at the time. That has been replicated in the production of Ordinances for that meeting.

Do I have any other comments? Conseiller Baker.

Conseiller Edric Baker: Yes, following the Easter Meeting, report Item 12.

230 Howard Knight, the election observer, recognised issues that affect the day-to-day life in Sark: lawyer's letters, *Newsletter*, financial firepower. I take you back to the MoJ Sark Perception Survey. That pointed out that 30% of respondents raised concerns about the divisions between the Government of Sark and the Barclay brothers, Sark Estate Management (SEM). Concerns were expressed about the role of the newsletter. Later on, Lord McNally, in a letter copied to Members of Chief Pleas, said, and I quote:

'I deplore the tone of *The Sark Newsletter*.'

235 And further on, he says:

'I have made clear my concerns that the publication of emotive and personalised interpretations of events in *The Newsletter* is getting in the way of constructive discussions on critical issues facing the Island.'

Colin Kniveton said in *A Vision for Sark*, under the heading 'Government of Sark':

'This new era has been complicated to a significant degree by the issues arising from the Barclay Brothers and their representatives.'

Belinda Crowe in her independent review says:

'Public scrutiny and legal challenge to government decisions go hand in hand with democracy, and, in this respect Sark is no different from anywhere else. However, this Review acknowledges that Sark is a small Island, and opposition to the actions of its government, parliament and public figures can take the form of highly personal attacks which cause distress and may, in the future, deter people from participating in public life.'

I ask you: can all these respected people be wrong?

Thank you, sir.

240

The President: Anybody else? Any other matters arising? No.

2. Questions not related to the Business of the Day – None

Questions not related to the Business of the Day.

The President: Then we will move on to Agenda Item 2: Questions not related to the Business of the Day. There are none.

**3. Amendments to the Direct Taxes (Sark) Law –
Fairer Taxation Policy Development Team Report considered –
The Direct Taxes (Sark) (Amendment) Law, 2015 approved**

To consider a report from the Fairer Taxation Policy Development Team entitled ‘Amendments to the Direct Taxes (Sark) Law’ and to approve the Projet de Loi entitled ‘The Direct Taxes (Sark) (Amendment) Law, 2015’.

Proposition

That Chief Pleas approves the attached Projet de Loi entitled ‘The Direct Taxes (Sark) (Amendment) Law, 2015’.

245 **The President:** Agenda Item 3: To consider a report from the Fairer Taxation Policy Development Team entitled ‘Amendments to the Direct Taxes (Sark) Law’ and to approve the Projet de Loi entitled ‘The Direct Taxes (Sark) (Amendment) Law, 2015’.

I would ask the team leader of the PDT, Conseiller Cottle, to introduce the Report, please.

250 **Conseiller Cottle:** Thank you, sir.

This straightforward Projet has been drafted, as is explained in the Report, to ensure that all property in Sark is taxed consistently, regardless of the method of ownership.

255 The main change is in section 22, ‘Interpretation’, where the definition of ‘possessor’ has the words ‘natural person’ replaced by the single word ‘person’, which therefore includes all legal persons, including companies, clarifying the intention of the law. To be consistent with that, there are amendments to section 21, ‘Service of Documents’, to specify the means of servicing of documents where the intended recipient is not an individual. Consequent to these changes there are then seven further amendments, listed (a) to (g), changing specific wording to reflect the broader definition of a ‘possessor’.

260 These changes are brought as a result of feedback from the taxation consultation in December 2014, one recurring theme of which was that opportunities for tax avoidance should be removed. There has not been any avoidance due to this particular possibility, but the potential was recognised and is relatively simple to rectify, so this is the first measure being brought as a result of the Taxation Review. Further work is continuing and will be brought to
265 Chief Pleas in due course.

Therefore, the Fairer Taxation PDT request that the amendment Projet is approved. If you have any comments or questions please bring them up now before the Proposition is brought.

Thank you.

270 **The President:** Do I have any comments or debate, please? No.

Therefore, we will go to the Proposition in the Report: That Chief Pleas approves the attached Projet de Loi entitled ‘The Direct Taxes (Sark) (Amendment) Law, 2015’.

Those in favour; those against. **Carried.**

Procedural –

Order of business changed to permit Item 14 to be taken now

The President: I wish to propose under Rule 9 that Item 14, taken from the addendum, be dealt with now, so that approval of legislation can be completed. A simple majority vote is required to change the order of business.

275 Those in favour of dealing with Agenda Item 14 now; those against. That is **carried.**

**14. Transfer of Functions –
Policy and Performance Committee Report considered –
‘The Sark General Purposes and Finance Committee (Transfer of Functions) Ordinance, 2015’
approved**

To consider a Report from the Policy and Performance Committee entitled ‘Transfer of Functions’ and to approve the Ordinance entitled ‘The Sark General Purposes and Finance Committee (Transfer of Functions) Ordinance, 2015’.

Proposition

That Chief Pleas approves the Sark General Purposes and Finance Committee (Transfer of Functions) Ordinance, 2015.

280 **The President:** Therefore, we will go to Agenda Item 14: To consider a Report from the Policy and Performance Committee entitled ‘Transfer of Functions’ and to approve the Ordinance entitled ‘The Sark General Purposes and Finance Committee (Transfer of Functions) Ordinance, 2015’.

I would ask the Committee Chairman, Conseiller Maitland, to introduce the Report, please.

285

Conseiller Maitland: We were asked to bring this report to Chief Pleas by the Law Officers. It does not reflect a change in policy in any way and, as the report says, does no more than ensure that the transfer of functions between Committees agreed earlier this year has been given full legal effect, i.e. that the functions of the old General Purposes and Finance Committee, or
290 General Purposes Committee, were properly transferred to the present Policy and Performance Committee. I need say no more.

The President: Thank you.

Any comment or debate? No.

295 Then we will go to the Proposition in the Report: That Chief Pleas approves the Sark General Purposes and Finance Committee (Transfer of Functions) Ordinance, 2015.

Those in favour; those against. **Carried.**

This Ordinance will be numbered as VI of 2015.

**4. Securing Sark’s Future –
Policy and Performance Committee Progress Report considered and contents noted**

To consider a Report from the Policy and Performance Committee entitled ‘Securing Sark’s Future – Progress Report’.

Proposition

That Chief Pleas takes note of the contents of this report.

The President: We now move back onto the main Agenda.

300 Agenda Item 4: To consider a Report from the Policy and Performance Committee entitled ‘Securing Sark’s Future – Progress Report’.

I would ask Conseiller Maitland to introduce the Report, please.

305 **Conseiller Maitland:** We bring this report to each Chief Pleas to let Conseillers and the public know how we are getting on with all the various policy developments that are going on with

policy development teams. Looking at the Report, there should be a number of items coming to Michaelmas Chief Pleas as work continues.

I should like to ask Conseiller Fry to give a verbal report on sustainable priced electricity.

310 **The President:** Conseiller Fry.

Conseiller Fry: Thank you, sir.

Electricity in the 21st century is an essential utility. Any modern democratic government has an obligation to ensure a sustainable reasonably priced supply.

315 Over the last five years, the Government has been in discussion with Sark Electricity Ltd (SEL). Its aim has been to secure reasonably priced electricity for the people of Sark. Over these discussions, the need for a sustainable long-term supply has come into sharp focus as fossil fuel generation becomes more precarious around the globe.

320 In March this year our presentation to residents resulted in overwhelmingly positive feedback that sustainable reasonably priced electricity is, as was said to us, a 'no-brainer' for the economic prosperity of the Island and for the foreseeable future. Unfortunately, we cannot get agreement to this approach that reassures us it will not be frustrated or derailed. We have now got to the position where we can go no further in negotiating the content of a heads of terms agreement with SEL. What we want for the inhabitants of Sark is a timely, transparent and
325 reasonable process, using independent valuers and industry standard valuation process to purchase SEL.

As Mr David Gordon-Brown has sent copies of his e-mail of the second of this month to all Conseillers, we will be forwarding our response to you. Disappointingly, there are several points that, quite frankly, do not make sense to us. We have not refused to pay his legal bills, but what
330 we cannot agree is committing the taxpayers of Sark to an open-ended amount. As it has taken over five years to get to this point, it is not difficult to envisage legal arguments going on and on. Mr Gordon-Brown has said that he has agreed the heads of agreement three times. Unfortunately, he has agreed his own terms each time and not ours. We have therefore concluded reluctantly that, because of the difficulties experienced in trying to reach agreement,
335 if this transaction is to proceed it needs to be on the basis of a co-operative relationship on both sides. Without this, these difficulties are only going to increase. There may be a better approach which provides certainty and less opportunity for dispute.

On a personal level I would like to assure Chief Pleas that there is no overt hostility between myself and David Gordon-Brown, as I believe has been suggested. Indeed, in another context we
340 are good friends, often having dinner together and attending the same church. I am mystified as to why anyone would make such a blatantly untrue statement. There is no animosity between us. If anyone bothered to ask David about this, he would agree.

The sole aim of this PDT is to achieve a fair and proper resolution that delivers sustainable, reasonably priced electricity to the people of Sark. So, to conclude, we are looking at other
345 options with the advice of our Law Officers and will bring a Proposition to Chief Pleas at Michaelmas, if not before at an Extraordinary Chief Pleas.

Thank you.

The President: Thank you, Conseiller Fry.

350 Does anybody have any questions to put to Conseiller Maitland or raise any issues on the paperwork that you have for this Item? No.

Therefore, we will move to the Proposition on the Report: That Chief Pleas takes note of the contents of this Progress Report.

Those in favour; those against. **Carried.**

**5. New Members for Sark Children's Panel –
Children's Law Policy Development Team Report considered and new members approved**

To consider a Report from the Children Law Policy Development Team entitled 'New Members for Sark Children's Panel'.

Proposition

That Chief Pleas approves the following people to sit on the Sark Children's Panel: Mrs Karen Adams, Mrs Caragh Couldridge, Dr John Stevenson and the Constables.

355 **The President:** We move to Agenda Item 5: To consider a Report from the Children Law Policy Development Team entitled 'New Members for Sark Children's Panel'.

I would ask the team leader of the PDT, Conseiller Audrain to introduce the Report, please.

Sorry, have I missed something? No. Okay. Let's make the introduction first and then you can speak. Conseiller Audrain.

360

Conseiller Audrain: I think Conseiller Adams just wishes to mention that she is part of this and she declares an interest.

The President: Yes.

365

Conseiller Audrain: This Item comes from work that we have been doing for the Children Law and we wish to add members to the Children's Panel, which was set up some time ago but had become reduced to only two members – our headteacher, Mrs Sarah Cottle; and myself – and in order to move forward with work for child protection using the panel, we would like to add some more members. The members are mentioned here. The new members we wish to propose are Mrs Karen Adams, Mrs Caragh Couldridge, Doctor John Stevenson and the Constables.

370

The President: Conseiller Adams.

375

Conseiller Adams: Just to say that, as I am one of those named for consideration by Chief Pleas, it would not be correct for me to vote on this. There is no direct pecuniary interest so I think I can stay, but I will not vote.

The President: Thank you.

380

Do I have any questions? Yes, Conseiller Dunks.

Conseiller Dunks: Just for clarification, in your Proposition you say 'Constables'. Is that the Constable and the Vingtenier? And will that remain so when they change roles at the end of the year?

385

Conseiller Audrain: Yes, when we put 'the Constables' we do mean that the Constable and the Vingtenier would be part of the panel and that would be ongoing. So it would become part of the Constables' role.

390

The President: Thank you. Anything else? No.

We will go for the Proposition, then: That Chief Pleas approves the following people to sit on the Sark Children's Panel: Mrs Karan Adams, Mrs Caragh Couldridge, Dr John Stevenson and the Constables.

Those in favour; those against. **Carried.**

**6. Policy and Performance Committee –
Committee Secretary Resignation and Establishment Review –
Report noted**

To consider a Report from the Policy and Performance Committee entitled ‘Committee Secretary Resignation and Establishment Review’.

Proposition

That Conseillers note the content of this Report.

395 **The President:** We move to Agenda Item 6: To consider a Report from the Policy and Performance Committee entitled ‘Committee Secretary Resignation and Establishment Review’.
Conseiller Maitland, if you would introduce the Report, please.

400 **Conseiller Maitland:** I should like to ask Conseiller Rolfe to deal with this on behalf of the Committee, sir.

The President: Certainly. Conseiller Rolfe.

Conseiller Rolfe: I will be brief, Mr President.

405 As we all know, Brian Garrard left a hole and I am sure he would not mind me saying he left a particularly large hole. *(Laughter)* We have honoured him by contributing out of our pockets to the present he was given at his fish and chip supper and lots of speeches have already been made. I just want to add my own good wishes to him. He was a great friend and someone who is missed in various aspects of Sark life.

410 The Establishment Review is something which, although the Report says:

‘The Policy and Performance Committee have tasked the Senior Administrator with conducting a review of all roles’

the fact is that when the appointment was made by GP&A the Senior Administrator was asked then to carry out this management organisation and efficiency review, and it was actually part of her job description anyway, so this is an ongoing thing.

The Senior Administrator is scoping out the terms of reference by discussing with her colleagues desktop research and benchmarking, and once this is done, in the next month or so, a fully formed terms of reference document can be brought to the Michaelmas Chief Pleas for approval.

415 I so propose.

The President: Thank you, and if I may just add I had an e-mail from said Brian Garrard yesterday, wishing us well today – and was pleased, on our behalf, that it was not last Wednesday when we had the hottest day of the year! *(Laughter)*

420 Any comments or debate on the Report, please? Conseiller Ventress.

Conseiller Ventress: As Chairman of the Road Traffic Committee, I would just like to say how much we appreciated Brian Garrard’s help to us. He is missed.

425 **The President:** Thank you very much. Anybody else? No.

Then we will move to the Proposition: That Conseillers note the content of this Report. Those in favour; those against. **Carried.**

**7. Development Control Committee –
‘Reduction in Membership of the Committee’ Report considered –
Proposition carried**

To consider a Report from the Development Control Committee entitled ‘Reduction in Membership of the Committee’.

Proposition

To request Chief Pleas approve a change to the Committee’s mandate that in future the Committee shall consist of four sitting Members of Chief Pleas.

430 **The President:** Agenda Item 7: To consider a Report from the Development Control Committee entitled ‘Reduction in Membership of the Committee’.

I would ask the Committee Chairman, Conseiller Edric Baker, to introduce the Report, please.

Conseiller Edric Baker: Thank you very much, sir.

435 Before I go into the Report I would like to say a few words about Conseiller Sandra Williams. Conseiller Williams became a member of DCC in 2005 and she has served continually up to this present day, which is a long 10 years. In that time she would have attended 117 meetings and also site visits. That is a considerable amount of time and we have gone through some very busy periods as well, so I would like to have a vote of thanks for her attendance.

440 **The President:** Thank you.

Conseiller Edric Baker: As to the Report, the Committee have discussed this at length and we feel we can quite easily manage with four members, and therefore would like to change our mandate to reflect that.

445 Thank you, sir.

The President: Any questions? Any comment? No.

450 Then we will go to the Proposition in the Report: To request Chief Pleas approve a change to the Committee’s mandate that in future the Committee shall consist of four sitting Members of Chief Pleas.

Those in favour; those against. **Carried.**

**8. Appointment of Deputy Treasurer –
Policy and Performance Committee Report considered –
Mrs Lynda Higgins appointed**

To consider a Report from the Policy and Performance Committee entitled ‘Appointment of Deputy Treasurer’.

Proposition

That Chief Pleas approve the appointment of Mrs Lynda Higgins to the post of Deputy Treasurer with a probation period of three months at the remuneration of 10% of the salary of the Treasurer as detailed in section 51 of the Reform (Sark) Law, 2008 as amended.

The President: Agenda Item 8: To consider a Report from the Policy and Performance Committee entitled ‘Appointment of Deputy Treasurer’.

Conseiller Maitland, please.

455 **Conseiller Maitland:** I should like to ask Conseiller Jane Norwich to deal with this on behalf
the Committee, sir.

The President: Conseiller Elizabeth Norwich, please.

460 **Conseiller Elizabeth Norwich:** I think the Report is self-explanatory and I would like to ask for
Chief Pleas' support in this Proposition that Mrs Lynda Higgins be appointed as Deputy
Treasurer.

The President: Thank you.

465 Any comments or debate? Conseiller Raymond.

Conseiller Raymond: Thank you, sir.

As a member of the interviewing panel I would just like to endorse the recommendation and
second the Proposition.

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The President: Thank you.

I see nobody else rising. Therefore, we will go to the Proposition: That Chief Pleas approve
the appointment of Mrs Lynda Higgins to the post of Deputy Treasurer with a probation period
of three months at the remuneration of 10% of the salary of the Treasurer as detailed in
section 51 of the Reform (Sark) Law, 2008 as amended.

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Those in favour; those against. **Carried.**

**9. Proposed Capacity Law for the Bailiwick –
Medical Committee Report considered –
Proposition carried**

*To consider a Report from the Medical Committee entitled 'Proposed Capacity Law for the
Bailiwick'.*

Proposition

*The Sark Medical Committee request Chief Pleas permission to continue discussions with
Guernsey on the proposed Capacity Law that may be introduced by Guernsey and Alderney,
with the intention of Sark taking a full and active part in this legislation, thereby making it
Bailiwick wide.*

The President: Agenda Item 9: To consider a Report from the Medical Committee entitled
'Proposed Capacity Law for the Bailiwick'.

480 I would ask the Committee Chairman, Conseiller Diane Baker, to introduce the Report,
please.

Conseiller Diane Baker: In April this year we were contacted by Simon Hodgett, a Law Officer
working with the Civil Advisory Legislation Team. HSSD in Guernsey were looking at any changes
needed to the Mental Health Law and were consulting with Sark to see if we had any ongoing
issues of concern.

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At the direction of the States of Guernsey, HSSD has been considering the introduction of
legislation in the field of capacity. This is dealing with issues such as determining whether a
person has capacity to make a decision, lasting powers of attorney, advanced decisions to refuse
treatment, court-appointed attorneys and placing restrictions on incapacitated people.

490 It is hoped that the States will consider specific proposals later this year to allow drafting to begin. HSSD wanted to visit both Sark and Alderney to share these proposals and enquire if the other islands wish to be included in this legislation.

On 30th April, Simon Hodgett and Colin Vines from HSSD came across to Sark and gave a presentation on this subject, which all Conseillers were invited to attend. This turned out to be a very informative presentation. So many of us do not give thought to what could happen if we are taken ill and unable to look after our own affairs, and while 'power of attorney' is a phrase we are used to hearing, many of you, like me, may not be aware how much or how little use this may be when you need it.

You have been given a short account of the proposals on the Capacity Law in your Chief Pleas papers. HSSD feel they have learned a few lessons from the introduction of this law in the UK and are adjusting their thoughts accordingly. The Medical Committee are keen to play a part in the drafting of this legislation, which will allow Sark's unique ways to be considered. We took part in the consultation on the Mental Health Legislation from the beginning and it proved to be a wise move. The Medical Committee are now asking Chief Pleas to give permission for us to do the same with the Capacity Law, to be a part of the initial discussions and proposals. I am not sure at this stage if I can answer any questions, but I will find answers at the earliest opportunity.

I hope you have already read the papers and will agree to the Medical Committee continuing with this consultation.

510 **The President:** Thank you.

Do I have any comments or debate? Conseiller Fry, Conseiller Audrain, Conseiller Elizabeth Norwich.

Conseiller Fry, please.

515 **Conseiller Fry:** I just wanted to say that I was able to attend that presentation and I found it extremely informative and helpful, and I will certainly be voting in favour.

The President: Conseiller Audrain.

520 **Conseiller Audrain:** Yes, similarly, I would like to say that this is a very complicated subject and it has been very well explained, both in this paper that we have been provided with and the presentation that was made by Simon Hodgett and Colin Vines. It really did help to put these matters in perspective and to understand them, so I would be very keen that we move forward with this, because I think it really is something that we need in Sark.

The President: Conseiller Elizabeth Norwich.

530 **Conseiller Elizabeth Norwich:** I would just like to support that. The presentation was excellent and I would like to support it going forwards.

I have recently had experience of dealing with capacity in the UK with my mother and it was complicated. Guernsey seems to be taking a much more sensible approach, and I support it.

The President: Anybody else? No.

535 Then we will go to the Proposition: The Sark Medical Committee request Chief Pleas' permission to continue discussions with Guernsey on the proposed Capacity Law that may be introduced by Guernsey and Alderney, with the intention of Sark taking a full and active part in this legislation, thereby making it Bailiwick wide.

Those in favour; those against. **Carried.**

**10. Minor Amendments to the Road Traffic Offences (Motor Vehicles and Bicycles)
(Sark) Law, 2013 and The Motor Vehicles (Sark) Regulations, 2014 –
Road Traffic Committee Report considered –
Propositions carried**

To consider a report from the Road Traffic Committee entitled 'Minor Amendments to the Road Traffic Offences (Motor Vehicles and Bicycles) (Sark) Law, 2013 and The Motor Vehicles (Sark) Regulations, 2014'.

Proposition 1

That Chief Pleas agree to the Road Traffic Committee bringing forward an Ordinance to exempt users of invalid carriages and electric cycles from section 15(1) of the Road Traffic Offences (Motor Vehicles and Bicycles) (Sark) Law, 2013.

Proposition 2

That Chief Pleas agree to the Road Traffic Committee bringing forward an Ordinance to increase the maximum acceptable tractor height by four inches under section 4(c) of The Motor Vehicles (Sark) Regulations, 2014.

The President: Agenda Item 10: To consider a Report from the Road Traffic Committee entitled 'Minor Amendments to the Road Traffic Offences (Motor Vehicles and Bicycles) (Sark) Law, 2013 and The Motor Vehicles (Sark) Regulations, 2014.

540 I would ask the Committee Chairman, Conseiller Ventress, to introduce the Report, please.

Conseiller Ventress: You have got it all in front of you. It is a fairly straightforward two Propositions and I do not feel that I need say anything more, but I will certainly welcome any questions or debate.

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The President: As Conseiller Ventress said, there are two Propositions. They are quite different Propositions. Are there any questions from the floor? At the end of any debate, we will go to those two Propositions. Conseiller Burgess, followed by Conseiller Dewe.

Conseiller Burgess.

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Conseiller Burgess: Thank you, sir.

I would just like to ask about Proposition 2: why do we need to increase the size of tractors? As a pedestrian and a cyclist, I think our tractors are big enough.

Thank you.

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Conseiller Ventress: As regards the size, the height of the tractors, this has come back because tractors these days come with the cabs fitted at the factory and cannot be modified, and this does restrict the choice of tractors. Also, the manufacturers these days have been building bigger and bigger tractors – or cabs, rather – to accommodate all the extra bits such as air conditioning, which we do not really need, and radios, which are required on the larger farms, and in fact the height of a tractor has very little impact other than to low branches, and of course they all fit through the tunnel. The only small problem could be in safety, where you have got working on steep slopes. The amount of extra weight in the increased height is negligible and reflects very little on the overturning potential of tractors.

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This, I feel, is something we need for the benefit of the tractor owners. The most important things are the length and, most important of all, breadth, and then the power – and these are all unchanged. Height, quite frankly, is not terribly important.

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Thank you.

570 **The President:** Conseiller Richard Dewe.

Conseiller Richard Dewe: Thank you.

I will be... on Proposition 2 also. I brought a similar Proposition to... *[Inaudible]* when I was Chairman of the Road Traffic Committee, the only difference being that I used metric measurements and not imperial, and Chief Pleas threw it out. I felt at the time that we were right and they were wrong and I resigned as Chairman of the Committee. But I will again be supporting the Proposition.

Thank you.

580 **The President:** Thank you.

Anybody else? No.

Then we will go to Proposition 1: That Chief Pleas agree to the Road Traffic Committee bringing forward an Ordinance to exempt users of invalid carriages and electric cycles from section 15(1) of The Road Traffic Offences (Motor Vehicles and Bicycles) (Sark) Law, 2013.

585 Those in favour; those against. **Carried.**

Proposition 2: That Chief Pleas agree to the Road Traffic Committee bringing forward an Ordinance to increase the maximum acceptable tractor height by four inches under section 4(c) of the Motor Vehicles (Sark) Regulations, 2014.

Those in favour; those against. That is **carried.**

**11. Committee Elections –
Sustainable Electricity Policy Development Team –
Conseiller Maitland elected**

To elect Chief Pleas Members onto Committees and Policy Development Teams, as required.

590 **The President:** Agenda Item 11. Committee Elections: To elect Chief Pleas Members onto Committees and Policy Development Teams, as required.

Can I ask chairmen of Committees and team leaders of PDTs to stand if they have any Members to propose to their Committees or PDTs or wish to speak generally on this Item. Conseiller Fry... That is it, okay, thank you.

595 While you are on your feet, Conseiller Fry.

Conseiller Fry: It is the Sustainable Electricity PDT and, because of legal stipulation that the Chairman of the P&P Committee has to be involved, I would request that Charles Maitland joins our Committee.

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The President: So you are proposing that Conseiller Maitland joins the Sustainable Electricity PDT.

Conseiller Fry: Yes.

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The President: Thank you.

You are very happy with that, Conseiller Maitland – yes, smiling.

The Proposition is that Conseiller Maitland be elected to the Sustainable Electricity Policy Development Team.

610 Those in favour; those against. **Carried.**

The President: Conseiller Baker.

615 **Conseiller Edric Baker:** Yes, I would just like to speak on behalf of Harbours and Pilotage Committee. We are at the moment without a Chairman or Deputy Chairman, but the idea from the Committee is to have a meeting, which is arranged for tomorrow, and several Committees will be meeting together to discuss the future of Harbours and Pilotage and to bring in a Proposition to that effect.

620 **The President:** Thank you.
No other changes required to Committees? No.

**12. Expenditure Request 2016 –
Finance and Resources Committee Information Report considered**

To consider an Information Report from the Finance and Resources Committee entitled 'Expenditure Request 2016'.

The President: In that case we will move on to Agenda Item 12: To consider an Information Report from the Finance and Resources committee entitled 'Expenditure Request 2016'.

I would ask the Committee Chairman, Conseiller Cottle, to introduce your Report, please.

625 **Conseiller Cottle:** Thank you again.

Firstly, I would like to thank all the chairmen of Committees with spending responsibilities for getting their requests in on time and on the new standard form that has been produced to allow this Report to be compiled – and it is quite a thick wedge of papers there that people have put their proposals in on.

630 As you can see from the summary of the proposed expenditure, the requests in total amount to an extra nearly £32,000 above the current year's budget. This does not currently include wage and salary increases, which are under review. If, for instance, that was 1% – if that was added to this sum of £32,000, that would roughly be a further £10,000, bringing the total to £32,000, but that is just an example. We use RPI at the moment, but the Establishment Review is reviewing that and any recommendation from that review may alter what the recommendation for salary increases next year will be.

635 Looking at the requests in total, in order to meet these extra requests a taxation increase will have to be considered, which as always would be unpopular. So there is this opportunity to look at all these requests again between now and Michaelmas Chief Pleas, and Conseillers are free to ask questions or seek clarification on anything included in this Report.

640 I would point out that last year, in 2014, actual spending fell more than £100,000 short of the budgeted amount and I would suggest that Committees that made savings then could look closely at where they were made and see if they could be made again. **(A Member: Ha!)** The current approach is that Committees know best how to manage their individual budget and use their resources most efficiently. They know the detail of what needs to be spent and are careful in not overspending. Taking ownership of the budget and being answerable to taxpayers has been considered the best way of controlling spending while making sure essential work is done and essential services are maintained. Expenditure on these services is low compared to other jurisdictions, in large part due to the amount of unpaid volunteer work that is done in many areas and the relatively limited resources that are used here.

645 It has been suggested that Finance and Resource Committee's role should be more one of controlling expenditure rather than examining and questioning requests. If that is the view of Conseillers, then we would be obliged to consider that and change our mandate accordingly. There would be risks to that strategy and Chief Pleas would still have to have the final vote in approving the expenditure budget. If Committees wish to maintain the final control of their

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expenditure, then exercising diligence in assessing next year's requirement is needed, not just putting down the same amount as last year or increasing it slightly for inflation.

The individual requests are in the Report, so I will not repeat them. Some increases are due to factors outside of the control of Chief Pleas, where services are provided by outside agencies
660 or fees reflect the amount we are obliged to pay to meet our obligations.

For instance, the Medical Committee gave us advanced notice of the need to pay revalidation costs for the Medical Officer to make that role sustainable, at a considerable cost but unavoidable, and that cost is there for the first time in next year's requests.

Similarly, the Education Committee and the school have identified particular requirements
665 that need covering and they have an increase to request there.

Tourism Committee has requested a significant increase and has provided a further covering letter to clarify this, but it may be felt that approval should be sought for that spending by bringing a report with Proposition to the next Chief Pleas before the Budget is finalised, and Tourism Committee may want to consider that.

670 These and any other matters contained in the Report are for information and are open to question, so that opportunity is available to all Conseillers now or before papers are submitted for the Budget at Michaelmas.

Our next task on Finance and Resources Committee is to look at the taxation implications involved and calculate, with the invaluable help of our Treasurer, what will be required. The Fairer Taxation PDT has some proposals for modifying the current model, mainly shifting the
675 balance with indirect taxation between property tax and personal tax, but these will need careful explanation firstly to Conseillers, and that is not for today but will be done shortly.

Whatever is done the taxation will need to meet the expenditure requirement, so I would ask the Conseillers to take note of this Report and I would invite any comments or questions that
680 they have now.

Thank you.

The President: Thank you.

Conseiller Rolfe. Anybody else? I will start with Conseiller Rolfe.

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Conseiller Rolfe: Thank you, Mr President.

I make no apologies for reiterating what I have said before, continuing in the tradition of former Conseiller Bache, who argued that the Finance Committee should indeed be more proactive on the expenditure side. Conseiller Cottle has given a very good explanation of what
690 will happen now, and I thank him for that. For one moment I thought he was getting his defence in before I had spoken.

With the £31,855 increase... and Conseiller Cottle has mentioned £10,000, roughly speaking, for wages and salary and he made that a total of £32,000. Of course, in fact, it makes it £41,000 and I calculate that that is approximately a 3% increase. Having got that close to a cost-neutral
695 budget, I would have hoped that the Finance Committee, although it is not in their mandate, would actually have trawled through and tried to claw back that amount and have a cost-neutral budget. I invite members of this House to consider what would happen in the UK if, for instance, the Chancellor of the Exchequer operated under the same rules as Sark, where he just merely went out to the ministries and said to them, 'Let me know how much you want, chaps,' and they
700 all came back and it resulted in a 3% increase overall. In this day and age there would be an absolute outcry.

I do believe very, very firmly – and I will continue banging on about this, even if I am a lone voice in this House – that the Finance Committee really does need to have more teeth and should in fact be coming up with an overall budget at the very beginning of the year and looking
705 closely at what the needs of the Committees might be; not necessarily getting it absolutely spot on, and it rarely happens, but doing the role that the Financial Secretary of the Treasury, for instance, has in the House of Commons, or in the Chancellor of the Exchequer's Office – going

710 out to the Committees and saying, 'Can you work within that?' I firmly believe that had that been done this time the Committees would, very responsibly, probably have come up with a cost-neutral budget.

The President: Thank you.
Conseiller Burgess.

715 **Conseiller Burgess:** Thank you.

I would like to agree with Conseiller Rolfe there. I am one of the people on the Finance Committee who are trying to push for our mandate to be changed. I feel in this day and age we should really set our budget for expenditure first, give it to the Committees and say, 'There you go, that is all we are going to raise.' We cannot keep putting the taxes up, it has got to stop, and I think the mandate does need changing.

720 Thank you.

The President: Any other comments or debate?
Conseiller Paul Williams.

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Conseiller Paul Williams: Just nice to see a new category of civic entertaining has been created, as I had a lot of trouble getting any finance at all whatsoever for our World Offshore Powerboat champion and his golden bollard. *(Laughter)*

730 **The President:** Thank you. No further debate on that issue.

13. Regulation of Health Professionals – Register of Medical Practitioners Policy Development Team Information Report considered

To consider an Information Report from the Register of Medical Practitioners Policy Development Team entitled 'Regulation of Health Professionals'.

The President: We will move on to the final Item of business: To consider an Information Report from the Register of Medical Practitioners Policy Development Team entitled 'Regulation of Health Professionals'.

I would ask Conseiller Roger Norwich, the team leader, to introduce the Report, please.

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Conseiller Roger Norwich: Conseillers and members of the public will be well aware that, in recent years particularly following the Harold Shipman affair, the General Medical Council in the UK brought about a new regime to license, register and regulate medical practitioners. This is clearly an important issue that relates to patient safety and protection of the public from unregulated or unknown practitioners and sets an audit trail of accountability.

740 In the Channel Islands the majority of medical practitioners are trained in the UK and thus are registered with the General Medical Council, although the generality of the system of licensing and overall regulation has not been yet fully adopted in the Bailiwick, but is about to be. It is very important that practitioners in the Bailiwick, in Jersey and in the United Kingdom are able to be assured that in dealing with each other, as they do with our own cross-Channel medical purposes and needs, particularly with Southampton Hospital, doctors on both sides are assured there is a robust regime of regulation of their counterparties.

745 This will have various benefits for Sark in that, in broadly adopting the same regulations and regime as the rest of the Bailiwick, we will not have the risk of becoming the only jurisdiction in the British Isles which has no similar regime, and the lack of that regime would make it

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755 increasingly difficult or impossible for the Island to recruit its own medical practitioner in the future. It is important that the role of the medical practitioner in Sark should attract doctors who are not necessarily at the end of their career and who could, after having worked in Sark, then go back to work in the United Kingdom or elsewhere. So it is very important that we should bring these regulations about to allow us the fullest choice of doctors in the future when that matter of recruitment arises.

It is our intention that the regulations in Sark should allow us to know, as in all other parts of the Bailiwick, who is practising at all times anywhere in Sark. We should know their identity and have details of their qualifications.

760 It is our intention, in bringing in the regulations, that prescribing and dispensing by medical practitioners can only be undertaken within the same rules as in the rest of the Bailiwick, so that there is no room for abuse now or in the future.

765 Despite various legal representations that we have had from certain parties, these regulations are for the benefit of all Sark residents and occasional visitors and it is intended that the new regulatory regime will be put in place as soon as possible after that in Guernsey, which I am told will be finished around the end of the summer. We have not got an exact timetable at the moment, but recently I have been over to Guernsey to have discussions with the Law Officers and we are happy that there are no major issues of disagreement between ourselves and the Law Officer who will draft the regulations for us.

770 The Policy Development Team are happy to discuss this matter with any stakeholders or constituents who have an interest prior to finalisation of the regulations, and we would encourage any such individuals or groups to do so.

The President: Thank you.

775 Any comments or questions, please? No. Well, we will hear more of that in the future. There is no Proposition.

Ordinance laid before Chief Pleas

The President: Therefore, we now move to the final issue on the Agenda and that is the Ordinance laid before Chief Pleas.

780 The South Sudan (Restrictive Measures) (Sark) Ordinance, 2015 is laid before you. The Ordinance has been transmitted to the Royal Court. As of yet I have not had a response from them. There have been no motions to annul, therefore the Ordinance remains extant. This Ordinance will be numbered VII of 2015.

Menin Gate – 30,000th Last Post and Reveille Ceremony

785 **The President:** I have been asked by the Sark Fire Chief to inform you of the Menin Gate Ceremony to be held tomorrow evening at 7.00 p.m outside St Peter's Church. Notices are up in the village and the short ceremony starts at 6.50 p.m and will end by 7.05 p.m.

790 If you have not read the notice, tomorrow evening at the Menin Gate the buglers of the Last Post Committee, taken from the Voluntary Fire Brigade of Ypres, will play the Last Post and Reveille Ceremony for the 30,000th occasion since it came into inception and they have asked that fire brigades and services around the world take part to join them in that significant number of ceremonies that have been conducted. So I would ask, please, for your support for the Sark Fire and Rescue Service at this ceremony if you are able to make it.

Date of next meeting

The President: I would remind you that the next scheduled meeting is the Michaelmas Meeting on Wednesday, 30th September, but you will have heard during debate today of the possibility of an Extraordinary Meeting between now and then.

795 The closing date for Agenda Items and reports for the Michaelmas Meeting is Wednesday, 2nd September at 3.00 p.m, with papers going out no later than Wednesday, 9th September.

The meeting is closed. Greffier, the Grace, please.

PRAYER PRAYER

The Greffier

Chief Pleas closed at 11.19 a.m.